The St. Catherine’s Hospice Santa Run held in Caterham on Sunday 18th November was a run-away success. Nearly 130 people spent a sunny Sunday morning dressed up as Santa, running around Queen’s Park to raise funds for the local charity. Santas limbered up before the run with a kick boxing warm-up run by world champion Jody Blunt and at the end of the event all participants were given a well-deserved medal and treated to drinks and mince pies.

Sponsorship money is still coming in but St. Catherine’s hope to raise a combined total of £20,000 from the Caterham, Horsham and East Grinstead Santa Runs this year.

Jon Wickham, Events Fundraiser at St. Catherine’s Hospice said: “A big thank you to everyone who took part in our Santa Run in Caterham. It was great fun watching loads of Santas running, walking and skipping round the course and every penny raised will go towards caring for local people with a terminal illness.”

MP for East Surrey, Sam Gyimah took part in the run with his wife Nicky and his Parliamentary team. After the run Mr Gyimah said: “It was fantastic to see so many turn out and support St. Catherine’s Hospice, an organisation that offers essential and highly specialised end of life care in the area. “Thank you to my team and their partners who volunteered their time to run on Sunday, helping to raise essential funds for the charity. Well done to all those involved and a particular thank you to the organisers for putting on a great event.”

Keep up-to-date with the latest local news and events by signing up for our weekly E-newsletter, delivered straight to your Inbox! Simply go to www.caterham-independent.co.uk and click on the link ‘Get E-newsletter for free’.
Appeal dismissed regarding the redevelopment of the old Marie Curie Hospice building

On Monday 12th November Mr David Prentis, the government Planning Inspector, dismissed the appeal by Independence Homes against a refusal by Tandridge District Council to grant planning permission for their application to redevelop the site of the former Marie Curie Hospice in Harestone Valley Road in Caterham. In his report Mr Prentis stated that when taken as a whole the reason for refusal by Tandridge District Council was complete, precise and specific. The Council's decision was based on a planning judgement in relation to the effect of the scheme on the character and appearance of the area and the Council had not acted unreasonably.

The scheme by Independence Homes that was refused planning permission was for the erection of a 25 bedroom apartment building (15 x 2 bed and 10 x 1 bed apartments), a 20 bed care home, three terraced houses (2 x 3 bedroom houses with garages and 1 x 2 bedroom house), a pair of semi-detached houses (2 x 5 bedrooms) and a two storey office building with office accommodation in the roof space, with parking, pedestrian/vehicular access road, bike and bin stores.

Following the decision, Tandridge District Councillor for Caterham Valley, Beverley Connolly said: "I am delighted that the Inspector agreed with the views of local residents and councillors and dismissed the appeal. Hopefully now the developer, Independence Homes, will come back with a more suitable scheme for this site that respects the character of the area."

Tandridge Community Fund celebrates reaching its £100,000 target

At the November meeting of the members of the Tandridge Community Fund (‘TCF’) Chairman Mike Moss MBE was delighted to announce that the fund now has over £110,000, exceeding the original target of £100,000. The target was set in 2008 when Mike started the fund with a small group of volunteers in order to help support good causes in Tandridge. The fund was set up in partnership with the Community Foundation for Surrey who carefully invest the donations received by TCF. The government’s Grassroots and Community First matching initiatives have helped to boost the amount of money in the fund in addition to the extra cash raised through Gift Aid.

The fund members are very grateful to all who have supported them over the last four years including Sainsbury’s in Warlingham, Waitrose in Oxted, their patron David Gold who hosted two fundraising events for TCF, local councillor, Sally Marks for helping to publicise the fund and everyone else that has offered support in some way. TCF has made donations to a number of local groups from the interest generated by the capital fund including the Oxted-based Stepping Stones charity, Age UK, Godstone at Play, the Baby Cafe in Caterham and budding local musician Ross Stevenson. Their next donation will be to the Community Responders to help purchase a new defibrillator for medical emergencies.

At the November meeting Mike Moss told other members of TCF: "I am very pleased we have reached our target of £100,000. We must now work towards our new target of £200,000!" If you would like more information or would like to make a donation please call Mike on 01883 713322 or visit www.surreycommunityfoundation.org.uk and search for 'Tandridge'.
A ‘Skyfall’ of colour at the Caterham Round Table firework display!

Bond film theme tunes were the very topical musical accompaniment to this year’s firework display organised by Caterham Round Table held in the Dene Field on Saturday 3rd November. The display was preceded by a torchlight procession along the High Street to the Dene Field before the lighting of the enormous bonfire. The Round Table was helped on the night by both the Caterham Rotary Clubs, 1st Caterham (St. Mary’s) and 9th Caterham (Sacred Heart) Scout Groups, the 9th Caterham Girl Guides, St. John Ambulance, Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and the Caterham 41 Club. Earlier in the day the judging took place of the Build-a-Guy competition that was won this year by nine-year-old Charlotte Tracy and her five-year-old brother Matthew (pictured with Caterham Round Table chairman Peter Dommett) with their Guy modelled on the scathing judge Craig Revel Horwood from BBC’s Strictly Come Dancing!
Winter heating and plumbing advice from RH Heating

As winter approaches it’s easy to get caught out by emergencies that may mean we become vulnerable to rogue trades and workmen. RH Heating and Plumbing, based in Oxted, has the following advice to ensure you receive the service you deserve.

Try to ask neighbours, friends and colleagues to recommend a company that they have had work done by in the past. At RH Heating 89% of our work is generated in this way. Always get more than one estimate for work and make sure they are all estimating for the same work. Ensure estimates are written and if you make changes then these should also be in writing. Don’t get overwhelmed by technical talk, make sure estimates are clearly laid out in layman’s terms and if you’re unsure then ask for explanations.

Ask the company if you could contact one of their previous clients. Don’t be swayed into using someone who has immediate availability - a busier company often indicates that they are offering an outstanding service which is in demand. Check they are registered with the gov.

An extra-special Remembrance Day as Whyteleafe announces launch of new Royal British Legion branch

Remembrance Day services took place at churches across the district on Sunday, 11th November, with many uniformed groups, councillors, politicians, ex-service members and members of the public turning out to mark the occasion on what was a beautiful, sunny autumn day. The service at St. Luke’s Church in Whyteleafe was attended by Sam Gyimah MP and his wife Nicky, the Chairman of Tandridge District Council, Sakina Bradbury, Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council, Stephen Weigel, Surrey County Councillor Sally Marks and other local councillors. The service in Whyteleafe was especially significant this year for many who attended as it was announced recently that a new branch of the Royal British Legion is being launched in Whyteleafe to replace the old branch that closed four years ago.

On Thursday 8th November, a public meeting was held in the Function Room at the Whyteleafe Tavern to begin the process. County Councillor Sally Marks, District Councillor and landlord of the Whyteleafe Tavern, Tom Dempsey, Cllr. John Lowndes TD, CPO Michael Bromley RN retd., and Mr. George Gadd joined together to form the new branch and needed at least 15 people to sign up in order to proceed. There was a good turn out for the meeting and by the end of the evening the figure had been exceeded and the formal process to launch the new club will go ahead.

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The CR3 Forum that is creating the Neighbourhood Plan for Caterham, Whyteleafe and Chaldon, urgently needs new members to join the Housing and Business workgroups to help shape the community for the future.

Releasing a Green Belt location around Caterham for up to 1,000 homes over the next 20 years is just one idea that is being considered within the Neighbourhood Plan. The Housing workgroup will consider whether continuing to safeguard the Green Belt is causing higher densities of housing to be built elsewhere such as at the Oaklands site (now ‘Oakgrove’) in Caterham-on-the-Hill. The Housing workgroup will have a strong impact in helping to shape the Neighbourhood Plan, including influencing the type of new homes built in the area. It will consider whether or not there is the right mix of homes or if Croydon Road in Caterham Valley and Whyteleafe are being overdeveloped with flats.

CR3 Forum member, Mark Briselow, who is a graduate in Town Planning, said: “Historically the area has seen a considerable loss of employment land with new homes built on these sites, such as at Caterham Barracks and Oaklands. Whilst we still have some small-scale brownfield sites these are limited. The consequence is that we lose the opportunity for businesses to locate or expand in the Caterham area. A clear example of where this is the current situation is the Caterham Cars and Marie Curie Hospice sites.”

Mark explained that the Business workgroup will need to work with the Housing workgroup to protect the commercial properties in CR3 and maintain local employment opportunities. He said: “We currently have some developers involved who are searching for potential sites to develop so we need to balance that with people from the community! Please come and get involved and influence what happens along your street.”

Anyone wishing to be involved in the Business or Housing workgroups should contact Chris Windridge on 07850 757037 or e-mail caterhamabc@mac.com

HAVE YOUR SAY!

A household questionnaire from the CR3 Forum has been delivered to homes in the area for completion and return by the end of November. Please return the form as soon as possible or complete the survey online at http://caterhamareaforum.wordpress.com
In the spotlight

This month we feature Debbie Fox, the new Chairman of the Caterham and District Horticultural Society.

Birthplace: Woking, Surrey.

Marital Status: Cheeky!

Children: None.

Cars: A Toyota Prius.

Pets: None.

Childhood hero: David Bellamy, the botanist and broadcaster.

Favourite Food & Drink: Fish and a very good boutique gin. Not necessarily together.

Favourite TV show: Meet the Romans with Mary Beard.

Favourite books: I’ve just bought some lovely secondhand books on floristry by Constance Spry, from the RHS Wisley Library.

Likes: Nature is a constant source of wonder for me.

Dislikes: Belligerent drivers.

Pastimes: Gardening and local food growing.

Who would you most like to throw a custard pie at? Jeremy Clarkson, for being a belligerent driver.

Favourite song of all time: I have diverse musical tastes. It could be Poker Face by Lady Gaga or the Toreador’s Song in the opera Carmen.

Favourite holiday destination: Egypt.

Biggest influence on your life: I was adopted as a baby so a recent milestone was meeting my birth family.

Proudest moment: My partner Richard being made Head of Higher Education at East Surrey College.

Most embarrassing moment: Many as a teenager with my best friend. We wanted boys to notice us. It was a great benefit to my education that they didn’t.

Where would you most like to live? In a house with a view of the Malvern Hills.

Who would you most like to meet? Monty Don.

If you won the Lottery, how would you spend it? I’d open a plant nursery and fund parks restorations. I might buy a fully electric concept car.

Beautiful gifts for all inside the Treasure Chest

If you are struggling for ideas for Christmas presents this year, visit the Treasure Chest at 45 Croydon Road, Caterham Valley where you will find a wide range of toys, gifts and greetings cards for special occasions.

Owner, Janet Jenner, opened the store two years ago and now has many regular customers who pop in when they need to buy a special gift rather than driving all the way into Croydon or elsewhere out of town.

“We are just a short walk from Church Walk, so many of my customers come in before doing their weekly shop in Morrison’s or Waitrose,” said Janet.

“I like to keep up-to-date with the popular lines, so we stock traditional and modern toys from reputable companies such as Melissa and Doug, Orange Tree Toys, Paul Lamond, Big Jigs and Airfix. Our toys include dolls, soft toys, vehicles, puzzles and games, as well as a wide selection of creative items to keep the little ones busy!”

The Treasure Chest also sells a great selection of gifts for ladies and gents such as wallets, handbags, jewellery, jewellery boxes and manicure sets.

The range of items for the home are also very popular, especially as wedding presents.

The shop also sells knitting yarns and haberdashery which Janet will be developing more in the New Year. Janet would love you to call in to say ‘hello’ and if you mention The Caterham and District Independent you will receive a 10% discount throughout December, just in time to stock up with gifts for Christmas.

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Seeing Red?!

‘Calendar Girls’ raises thousands for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research

On Tuesday 6th November a cheque for £5,028 was presented to Gordon Hyde of the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research charity by Barbara Beckett, the Artistic Director of The Miller Centre Theatre Company. The donation was raised by the Company’s recent production of Calendar Girls.

On presenting the cheque, Barbara Beckett said: "It was a privilege to be involved in such an inspirational play as Calendar Girls. Everyone involved in the show gained a huge amount from doing it and made many new friends. This included those who live have been touched by Leukaemia or Lymphoma, which gave an added spur to our efforts. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to make a calendar and I thank the brave girls who did it because that enabled us to make a heap more money. It is a privilege and delight to be able to hand to you, Gordon, a cheque for £5,028". In accepting the cheque, Gordon Hyde said that he was astounded by how much money had been raised. "This is a fantastic amount for us in Leukaemia Research," said Gordon.

"This money will soon be heading to the research programmes that are going on around the country. At the moment, we are trying to improve the treatment for Leukaemia, find better ways of detecting it earlier and better ways of treating it without the horrendous side effects that affect some people". £5,028 was raised for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, of this £3,909 came from sales of the Calendar Girls cheeky 2013 colour calendar, starring the cast, and the balance from donations made by theatre goers. The A3 size 2013 Calendar Girls calendars can be purchased at The Miller Centre for £5 and on eBay for £8 including postage (please search for ‘theatre calendar 2013’).
You’ve recycled **63% more** of your rubbish since the new recycling and waste service launched in October. For the first time, over half your waste was recycled.

*Let’s work together to recycle even more*

For more information visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/recyclingandwaste or call Tandridge District Council on 01883 722000
Caterham Valley
Secondary School pupils meet up after 48 years

On Saturday 10th November a group of 18 ex-pupils of Caterham Valley Secondary School met for a reunion in the hall of the old school, now Marden Lodge Primary School in Croydon Road. The old Caterham Valley Secondary School merged with de Stafford School back in 1968. The reunion was the second organised by former pupil, Steve West who has spent the last year tracing fellow students from the 4th grade of 1964. Teacher, Miss Alison Wilson (Religious Knowledge), attended, meeting up with ex-students from as far afield as Vermont, USA (Ray Ginsbury), France (Linda Moore) and Cornwall (Chris Bird). Alison said: “The old headmaster ‘Butch’ Howell would have enjoyed seeing how his students had turned out”. Lauraine Nichols, bursar at Marden Lodge, gave guided tours of the school facilities, showing how classroom usage had changed since 1964. Allan Seal, former head boy, thanked Steve and his wife Mary for the excellent buffet and all there for making the event such a success. Steve apologises to any school friends who he was unable to contact.

Back row: David Ballantyne, Steve West, Roger Cotterell, Nigel Sutton, Robert Ballantyne.
Front row: Shelagh McEvoy (Partington), Ruth Whitton (Wilde), Barbara Dunn (Rhodes), Linda Moore (Powell), Lesley Mars (Ross), Beryl Evans.
Christmas got underway in Warlingham on Saturday 24th November with the traditional lantern parade and switching on of the Christmas lights on a very muddy Warlingham Green! Despite the rainy weather, hundreds of residents turned out in their raincoats and wellies to see the Warlingham Flute Band lead the lantern parade onto The Green and the Christmas lights being turned on. The crowd then joined in with the traditional carol singing by a combined children’s choir.

The organisers are very grateful to Natwest bank for sponsoring the lantern parade and carol singing this year. A new feature for this Christmas is a stunning corner tree covered in hundreds of lights. Many of the local shops stayed open late so people could make a start on their Christmas shopping including Dales gift shop, Warlingham Furniture and Son Flowers florists.

As always, the event was a very special occasion and a lovely start to the Christmas season in Warlingham.

A warm welcome awaited customers at Dales gift shop.

A very happy Christmas to all our customers.
AN INVITATION OPEN TO ALL

Please join us for a service of remembrance at our

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in the vestry hall.

To reserve a seat call 01883 623 067
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Salvation Army launches Christmas Present Appeal

Thousands of children, young people and their families will have a happier Christmas this year, thanks to the Salvation Army’s nationwide Christmas Present Appeal. Members of the public are being invited to donate new gifts for children aged 0-16 for distribution to needy children in the local area by the Salvation Army.

If you would like to donate a toy please take new, unwrapped toys to Superdrug or the Manager’s Office in Church Walk, Caterham by Sunday, 16th December. The Church Walk Shopping Centre manager, Shelley Filippi, would like to thank members of the public for their support.

The Soper Hall is open for business!

The refurbishment of the Soper Hall in Harestone Valley Road, Caterham by the Soper Hall Community Centre Ltd continues with improvements to the toilet facilities, the creation of a new meeting room, redecoration to the communal areas and a new kitchen/servery area under construction. This work has paid dividends for the community and the Memorial Hall has played host to two types of functions recently that have not been seen in the Soper Hall for many years – a Christening party and a children’s birthday party. The building echoed to the sounds of children having fun, parents relaxing and celebrating, and all in a safely controlled environment.

With a recent enquiry for a wedding reception the Soper Hall looks set to regain a place at the heart of the community. Booking enquiries can be made through the website at www.soperhall.co.uk

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IT’S CHRISTMAS CATER

On Friday 23rd November there was plenty of fun and excitement in Caterham Valley as the Christmas lights were switched on in Croydon Road, Godstone Road and Church Walk.

Businesses in Caterham contributed to the cost of the Christmas lights in Croydon Road and Godstone Road, with a generous donation again this year from Caterham Valley Parish Council.

Later on, Father Christmas made a grand arrival in Church Walk in a Caterham 7 car, before switching on the lights in the centre at 6pm. Singers from Caterham Baptist Church then led the carol singing for what was a truly magical occasion.

Crowds by the Asprey Fountain for the switching on of the Croydon Road lights. Photo by Shelley Filippi.

The Christmas tree in Church Walk.

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Crowds by the Asprey Fountain for the switching on of the Croydon Road lights. Photo by Shelley Filippi.

The Christmas tree in Church Walk.

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At the Asprey Fountain.

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Many of the shops stayed open late for Christmas shopping and Morrisons permitted three hours free parking in their car park.

Afterwards, Centre Manager, Shelley Filippi said: “This year was the busiest yet; it was lovely to see such a huge crowd of people visit the centre and we hope everyone enjoyed the event. There was so much support from the local community groups without who’s help we could not put on such a show.”

Caterham is all dressed up and ready to go for Christmas so please remember to shop locally!

**Father Christmas switching on the lights in Church Walk. Photo by Sarah Hills.**
Diary of a Plantaholic

by Sue Baines

With blooms rapidly diminishing, it is time to look at the structure of the garden. Many plants that have been in the background and taken for granted, come into their own now, such as my Chamaecyparis Nootkatensis. It is a lovely specimen conifer tree that only gets to 30ft x 15ft spread. It has dark green pendulous foliage, and is quite a winter focal point. In front is the home-grown topiary ‘sofa’ (yellow Privet). It was very easy to create, although it took several years to properly fill in the structure of the garden.

The evergreen shrubs, such as Photinia Red Robin with variegated form is, in my opinion a lot more interesting. As they are evergreen they sit quite happily next to the busy summer colour, and help to define the ‘garden rooms’. The silver filigree of the Perovskia foliage, minus the flowers now, still has an imposing presence unlike any other outline and sets off the nearby dark Echinacea (thistle-like heads) a treat. Of course topiary shapes are very fashionable, and rightly so, their outlines add another dimension. If they are in pots they can be moved to best effect but it is worth remembering that top-heavy topiary is vulnerable to wind. Glazed pots, to avoid frost damage, are best raised off the ground and put on pot feet.

Merstham Glass has something special to celebrate!

On Tuesday 20th November, Ron and Terri Jacks celebrated the 40th anniversary of the day they opened their new business, Merstham Glass. Their intention was to provide a first class glazing and double glazing service which, Ron explained, is still their aim.

Ron said: “We have never wanted to grow outside the area as we prefer to remain local. Our slogan is ‘large enough to cope, small enough to care’ which we think suits us very well.”

Over the years the range of products sold by Merstham Glass has grown, ranging from windows and conservatories to the latest maintenance free ‘evolution storm windows’. After listening to what their customers wanted, the company can now supply and fit garage doors! Merstham Glass has grown, ranging from windows and conservatories to the latest maintenance free ‘evolution storm windows’. After listening to what their customers wanted, the company can now supply and fit garage doors! Merstham glass serves both the public and the private sectors covering a wide range of requirements.

Speaking about their anniversary, Ron said: “In many ways the 40th is just another working day but it is great to reflect on the early years and the many changes to our industry. We have several staff who have been with us over 15 years, a few over 25 years and a couple over 30 years! We offer our thanks to all our staff past and present for what they have contributed to our success. “Finally but not least, thanks to all our customers for their continued support.”
All the team at CATERHAM AUTO REPAIRS would like to wish our valued customers, old and new, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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3 course lunch and dinner £25.95 Mon-Sat

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3 course meal £50 per person

Glass of Prosecco on arrival

**Boxing Day Menu**

3 courses £22.95

**New Year’s Eve Gala Menu**

Dinner & Dance with DJ till late

3 courses £60

Glass of Prosecco on arrival

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**Eating Out**

**Indian fine dining at Dewan-E-Am**

Review by Julia Church

A new Indian restaurant, Dewan-E-Am, has just opened in Coulsdon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill, along the road from Tesco. The restaurant offers Indian fine dining at very reasonable prices and is a lovely new restaurant for the local residents to have on their doorstep.

My daughter Jenny and I visited the restaurant recently and we had a wonderfully relaxing evening. Sam Choudhury the owner explained that Dewan-E-Am means ‘dining room for royalty’ to reflect the experience they like to provide for their customers. We enjoyed great service throughout the evening in the very stylish, modern surroundings.

The menu offers a wide range of traditional Indian dishes and a selection of Dewan-E-Am Specialties. To start I chose the Tandoori Chicken (£2.90) and Jenny chose the Lamb Chops (£3.50). Jenny’s chops, which she let me taste, were beautifully succulent as was my chicken which had just enough spiciness for my taste.

For our mains we both selected Dewan-E-Am Specialties - I chose the Tandoori King Prawn Korai recommended by Sam, and Jenny chose the Chicken Tikka Bhuna. My dish was the most expensive main course on the menu at £8.50 and Jenny’s main course was £6.10. To accompany the mains we shared a Pilau Rice (£2.10), Saag Aloo (spinach with potato) and Vegetable Korma (£2.80 each). Our meals were lovely and were just the right quantity and I noticed that other customers were giving great feedback to Sam as well.

Jenny said that the Vegetable Korma, which neither of us had had before, was really good and an excellent choice. The restaurant offers excellent value. On Sundays they serve a buffet from 12pm-2pm for just £7.99 per person or if you want a cosy night at home you can order a takeaway.

Dewan-E-Am is now taking bookings for Christmas parties when you can order from their regular menu at their usual prices. Check out their advert to see their fabulous opening offers and call the restaurant on 01883 348913 to reserve a table.
Caterham and District Rifle Club AGM

by Honorary President, Norman Skinner.

The Caterham and District Rifle Club is in its 105th year with 140 plus full members shooting in the range just off Waller Lane, Caterham. Long range competitions are shot at Bisley. The AGM and prize giving took place at Warlingham Sports Club on Friday 5th October.

Some notable shooters were Nigel Toze who won three major trophies (displayed by Nigel in the photo from left to right): The Morris Memorial Shield for the highest match average; The Cranmer Shield for the highest combined scores in air rifle prone, standing air rifle and match average; and the Alfred Price Cup (.22 rifle breakable disc knock-out) – a thrilling neck and neck tie shoot decided the outcome.

Junior member Jonathan Barnes came.

Some notable shooters were Nigel Toze who won three major trophies (displayed by Nigel in the photo from left to right): The Morris Memorial Shield for the highest match average; The Cranmer Shield for the highest combined scores in air rifle prone, standing air rifle and match average; and the Alfred Price Cup (.22 rifle breakable disc knock-out) – a thrilling neck and neck tie shoot decided the outcome.

Junior member Jonathan Barnes once again remained unbeatable winning the Uridge Pistol Trophy.

At Bisley Will Daly won the Bisley Trophy (.22 rifle knock-out) and the Price Cup (.22 rifle breakable disc knock-out) – a thrilling neck and neck tie shoot decided the outcome.

Tom Stretton once again took the Captain’s Cup with the Cranmer Shield for the highest average at Warlingham.

Philip Crease was a formidable opponent with the free-standing Light Sporting Rifle, winning the Rapid Fire Tankard and the President’s Shield for the highest match average.

Miss Feyja Chapman won the Alfred Price Cup (.22 rifle breakable disc knock-out) – a thrilling neck and neck tie shoot decided the outcome.

Junior member Jonathan Barnes took the Captain’s Cup with the highest combined scores in air rifle prone, standing air rifle and match air pistol. Tom Stretton once again remained unbeatable winning the Uridge Pistol Trophy.

At Bisley Will Daly won the Bisley Cup with the highest average at ranges from 300 to 900 yards.


Back row from left: W. Daly, M.P.J. Skinner, T.W. Harrison, A. McGarty, P. Crease, T.F. Stretton, R. Giddens

Photo by Rachel Lockwood.

For more information about the Caterham and District Rifle Club go to www.cdrifleclub.co.uk
What’s On

Munch with Music
The December ‘Munch With Music’ in St. John’s Church, Caterham Valley, is on Wednesday December 5th. Coffee and mince pies will be provided at 12.15pm. The performance is from 12.45pm-1.30pm and will feature Tuxedo Junction with Ruth Fahie (Vocalist). You are invited to bring your own ‘Munch’.

The Nutcracker

Christmas Concert
East Surrey Choral Society is presenting a Christmas Concert featuring ‘Magnificat’ by contemporary composer John Rutter and carols with audience participation on Saturday 8th December at 7.30pm at St. John’s Church, Harestone Hill, Caterham CR3 6SX. Tickets cost £10 (incl. programme and refreshments). Children under 14 free. Please call the box office on 01293 766358 or pay at the door.

Reading of ‘Nativity’
Gatton Community Theatre is presenting a staged dramatic reading of ‘Nativity’ by John Dun in on Friday 14th December at 7.30pm at All Saints’ Church, Warlingham. Tickets cost £8. Please phone 01883 625880 to book tickets.

Christmas by Candlelight
The Downland Chorale is holding an evening of festive, enchanting choral music conducted by Adam Assen on Saturday 8th December at 7.30pm. The concert is being held at St. John’s Church, Canon’s Hill, Old Coulsdon CT5 1HA. The evening will include a ‘Big Sing’ of Christmas Carols. Tickets cost £10. Please call 07729 618226 For tickets. For more information visit www.downlandchorale.org.uk

Wine Tasting Evening
A Wine Tasting in aid of St. Catherine’s Hospice is being held on Saturday 1st December from 8pm until 11pm at the Community Centre in the High Street, Caterham-on-the-Hill. Tickets cost £10 to include wine tastings and food. For more information and to book tickets call Julie on 0208 668 9515 or mob. 07754 165428.

Christmas Fayre
St. Francis RC Primary School in Whyteleafe Road, Caterham is holding a Christmas Fayre on Sunday 2nd December from 11.30am-2.30pm. There will be stalls, games, food and drink, Santa’s Grotto, Pampered Chef and crafts. An auction will be held at 2pm for an exclusive golf day for two on a private golf course. There will also be a Christmas raffle with many top prizes including an Xbox 360! Entry £1 per adult, children free - all proceeds go towards a new safety play surface for the infants’ playground.

The Village Inn
83A Coulsdon Road
Caterham, Surrey CR3 5NF
is on Wednesday December 5th.

Coffee and mince pies will be provided at 12.15pm. The performance is from 12.45pm-1.30pm and will feature Tuxedo Junction with Ruth Fahie (Vocalist). You are invited to bring your own ‘Munch’.

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Ridge Radio celebrates official opening of its new premises

On Monday 22nd October the community radio for Tandridge, Ridge Radio, held a launch party to celebrate the official opening of its new studio in Croydon Road, Caterham Valley. Volunteers, friends and supporters of Ridge Radio packed the new studio along with Beavers and Cubs from the 1st Woldingham Scout Group, their leaders and parents.

Sir Richard Stilgoe who founded The Orpheus Centre performing arts college in Godstone was one of the guests of honour, as well as local businessman and owner of West Ham United, David Gold. Both Sir Richard and David Gold gave speeches congratulating Ridge Radio on its new home and later on David Gold was interviewed live on air by Charlie, a Cub from 1st Woldingham Scout Group.

When Charlie asked Mr Gold what he thought of the new venue for Ridge Radio, he said: “I think that Ridge Radio is a great community asset and it is great to see it in its new home. It has something for everyone, young and old. This new venue is perfectly situated, on the main road where everyone can see it, and I wish you all very good luck.”

Afterwards Mark Jones, founder of Ridge Radio, said: “I think the launch party was fantastic. Lots of local businesses showed up and networked with each other – it injects more energy into the project when so much support is shown to us by local people.”

Another member of the Ridge Radio team, Tony Nash, commented: “I am so pleased that this went so well for all concerned. So many people behind the scenes worked long and hard to get this studio presentable for the opening night. Many thanks to all who turned up to see what a great job we are all doing at 77 Croydon Road.”

Phil and friends complete one thousand mile cycle challenge

Well done to ex-firefighter Phil Charrington from Caterham who undertook the challenge to cycle from Lands End to John O’Groats with his friends Johnny Banks from Southborough and Andy Duncan from Greenwich. The trio set off on Wednesday 19th September and completed the 1,017 mile route in 19 days. Afterwards Phil said: “The ride was very wet and very cold. We went through floods in the Midlands, two of them at least two feet deep, which meant we were pouring water out of our shoes! It was very cold around Glencoe – I couldn’t change gear my fingers were so cold! The ride was on my bucket list of things to do and although we did not do the ride for charity we have been given some donations for the fire brigade charity.”

Phil said that their average mileage was 53.5 miles a day with a diversion on the way to visit Culloden Battlefield.

David Gold with members of the 1st Woldingham Beavers and Cubs.
Who wants to be a volunteer?

by Rosemary Banks, Caterham Volunteer Centre

Have you put up your Christmas tree or thought about how many cards you will be sending? Does ‘another’ invitation to a Christmas party make you groan?

As the words of the popular carol tell us “’tis the season to be jolly…..” but as we are bombarded with Christmas music and seasonal images in shop windows and on television commercials, for many people this time of year can make their hearts sink.

Some people don’t have happy memories of family gatherings and all the fuss and the shopping frenzy can be as empty as the large wrapped boxes under the corporate Christmas trees.

In her poem In The Bleak Midwinter, Christina Rosetti wrote: “If I were a shepherd, I could give a lamb. If I were a Wise Man, I could do my part, yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.”

Perhaps it’s time to think of doing something completely different this Christmas. Perhaps you would like to think about giving a bit of your heart and your time to be a listening ear by volunteering. For example, you could be a befriender to someone who is lonely and isolated or a driver for a voluntary organisation such as the Caterham Car Scheme, St. Catherine’s Hospice or Seeability. If you wanted to give more practical help you could spend a few hours one evening a week with the Winter Night Shelter. If you would like to try something different and find out more about the diverse volunteering opportunities that are available, come to the Soper Hall in Harestone Valley Road, Caterham from 3pm–6pm on Wednesday 5th December, email me on caterhamvc@tvsc.org.uk or take a look at the National Volunteering Database www.do-it.org.uk. Thank you and Happy Christmas.
Readers’ letters

A ‘shabby trick’
To all supporters of National Remembrance Day November 11th yearly Poppy Appeal, a most deserving cause to help all Ex Service Personnel 24/7. The most deserving member of the aforesaid Appeal is ‘County Field Officer for Surrey’ Canon Peter Bruinvels who is in my personal view one of the most genuine and hard working, likeable, conscientious people I have ever had the pleasure to work with in over sixty years of belonging to the Royal British Legion. Peter has pulled Surrey’s Poppy Appeal status over the last ten years from nowhere to the second most prolific collector and accumulator of funds for the Royal British Legion. It seems that from nowhere the ‘faceless ones’ of the Royal British Legion have decided that the County Field Officer position is no longer required and (Saint) Peter has been made redundant and to add insult to injury, has been offered a lower salaried job. Where and doing what? Is this a thank you? In my 60 years of membership and at 81 years old this is the most shabby trick I have ever known and I hope somebody comes to their senses.

Yours, devastated, Peter McNeil, President of the Caterham Branch, Royal British Legion.

Thank you
Thanks to everybody who turned out on the parade and a special thanks to Caterham Townsend women’s Group who took over the parade marshals job when the original marshals failed to turn up. The police were delayed and eventually joined with stewards. Everybody who paraded I give my unreserved thanks to for making it memorable.

Barbara Henning, Ladies Section, Caterham Royal British Legion and Townsend Women’s Group.

Charity bag-pack
On Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September Caterham Guides and Scouts helped customers to pack their groceries at Tesco in Caterham-on-the-Hill to raise money for Tesco’s Charity of the Year, Cancer Research UK. On Saturday, Guides from 9th Caterham (St. Mary’s) Guides collected £627.93 whilst on Sunday, Scouts from 1st Caterham (St. Mary’s) Scout Group collected £563.36. Tesco staff and management would like to thank Caterham Guides and Scouts for collecting £1,191.29 for Cancer Research UK and their customers for their generous donations.

Margaret Ledger, Services Manager, Tesco Caterham.
Historic Society saved

Caterham’s 120-year old Horticultural Society has a bright new future as it recently filled key committee positions, some of which lay vacant for over a year.

The Society feared it would not survive without a chairman, following the sad passing of Roy Skelton and the Society sent out a plea to its 400 members. At the Society’s AGM in September, the committee elections saw enough new people step forward to save the Society. Some extra committee members and helpers in the Trading Centre in Westway, Caterham-on-the-Hill would still be welcomed.

New chairman Debbie Fox would like to pay their respects in memory of a great supporter of the club Allen Kelly who sadly passed away this week. Allen will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by all of us.

Caterham Horticultural Society trading hut volunteers.

Whyteleafe FC
by Adam Wilmott

October began with Leafe hosting ambitious Channel Islanders Guernsey at Church Road in the FA Trophy. Leafe found themselves three down at half time but fought back with two late goals to make the final scoreline 3-2 in front of 252 spectators. The following week Leafe travelled to Medway to face Lordswood, again finding themselves behind at half time, but managing to turn around a two goal deficit to emerge 4-2 victors, with a rousing second half performance including a spectacular strike from striker Jay Garrick. October was rounded off with a comfortable 4-0 home win against Fisher Athletic.

November started with a two-legged Macron Kent Cup affair against strugglers Sevenoaks. A bad tempered first leg in which too red and numerous yellow cards were shown ended in a 3-1 victory to Sevenoaks. However, the following week Leafe again managed to turn things around with an emphatic 4-0 win and will face Erith & Belvedere in the next round. The run of good form continued the following week, a goal in each half was enough to secure a 2-0 win against Greenwich Borough, moving Leafe up to 5th in the table. Leafe will play two home games in December. First at home to unbeaten high flyers Erith Town on Saturday 15th of December and then Beckenham Town on Boxing Day, which will be a 3pm kick off.

Finally, all at the Leafe would like to pay their re-

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The ‘Gunners’ get sponsored!

Queen’s Park U8 ‘Gunners’ proudly showed off their new kit recently, which has been sponsored by Astro Soccer Sixes Ltd, based in Whyteleafe.

The boys would not look out of place at the Emirates Stadium in their new strip, but instead grace the pitches of Queen’s Park, Caterham and other local grounds in the Epsom and Ewell Youth Football League on Saturday mornings.

Astro Soccer Sixes are a six-a-side football league who operate out of Whyteleafe Football Club on Monday evenings. They run league and cup competitions throughout the year on 3G astro turf and are affiliated to the Surrey FA.

Director of Astro Soccer Sixes, Alex Peters, said: “Our leagues have been running at Whyteleafe now for over two years and are going from strength to strength so we thought it was a good idea to give something back to the local community. We saw Queen’s Park as an ideal club to do that, even though I am a Tottenham supporter and they are called ‘The Gunners’ it’s nice to see our Tottenham supporter and they are called ‘The Gunners’ it’s nice to see our

Queen’s Park YFC visit

Soccer Sixes Ltd visit

For more information on Queen’s Park YFC visit www.queensparkyfc.co.uk or for information on Astro Soccer Sixes Ltd visit www.astrosoccersixes.co.uk
Croudace wins prestigious housebuilder award

The winners of the 31st What House? Awards - for the best new homes in Britain - were announced at a gala lunch in London’s Grosvenor House Hotel on Friday 16th November. Entries from every corner of the UK had been independently judged by a panel of property experts, culminating in the most prestigious event in the housebuilding calendar, hosted this year by actor James Nesbitt in front of 1,400 senior property industry figures. Croudace based Croudace Homes were delighted to win a Bronze award in one of the most highly contested categories, Best Medium Housebuilder, where all aspects of a company’s activities are assessed. Russell Denness, Managing Director of Croudace Homes, said: “Having the quality of our product and service recognised by our industry is extremely satisfying. We strive to achieve the very highest standards and are delighted that the efforts of everyone at Croudace and those who work with us have been rewarded with one of the most respected symbols of distinction.” Rupert Bates, Editorial Director of WhatHouse.co.uk, said: “The standard this year across all categories has been arguably the best in the 31-year history of these coveted Awards. From volume housebuilders committed to a culture of excellence through every site and every discipline, to niche developers producing some sensational cutting-edge products, the very best of housebuilding was on show.”

Discover Surrey’s countryside

Did you know that Surrey is the most wooded county in Britain? Or that the county has the most species of trees, grasses and wildflowers in England? Surrey’s countryside is beautiful during the colder months, so look out for the latest issue of Explore Surrey magazine for ideas of things to do and see, whether you’re on foot, on your bike or on the water. Take a peek online or pick up a free copy at your local library. You can also email explore@ surreycc.gov.uk or call 03456 009 009 with your thoughts.

Did you know ..?

Our circulation area is very hilly so at The Caterham and District Independent we pay our newspaper distributors extra for delivering to more difficult roads - it’s only fair! This is because we want to make sure every road is delivered to and no-one misses out on their paper. If you, or someone you know who lives in our circulation area does not receive The Caterham and District Independent through their door every month please let us know on 01883 346641. THANK YOU!
We would like to wish all of the local residents a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To get the new year off to a good start we would like to offer anyone who instructs us to sell their property in December 2012 a £500.00 discount from our standard agency fee.*

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A larger than average three bedroom semi detached Victorian house with driveway to front and level rear garden providing additional off street parking to rear. Viewing highly recommended.

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## Caterham Valley

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An attractive detached family home offering a well established plot with driveway and attached garage. Viewing highly recommended.

**UPC1043**

### £229,950

A larger than average three bedroom semi detached Victorian house with driveway to front and level rear garden providing additional off street parking to rear. Viewing highly recommended.

**UPC1025**

## Caterham

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A four bedroom detached house offered in our opinion in immaculate decorative order throughout with level landscaped rear garden and double garage situated in the popular Hameldon Park development.

**UPC0775**

### £635,000

An elegant four bedroom detached family home occupying a well established plot in one of Chaldons finest roads with views over country side to front. Viewing highly recommended.

**UPC0813**

### £350,000

A two bedroom terrace house in need of refurbishment situated in a cul-de-sac location and offered with no onward chain.

**UPC1045**